

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AGRE-00 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08 EUR-12 COME-00

ISO-00 TRSE-00 /046 W

-----014276 270547Z /23

R 261400Z OCT 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8018

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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FODAG

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO

SUBJ: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL

REF: (A) ROME 16697 (B) ROME 11675

1. WORLD FOOD COUNCIL HELD A BRIEFING SESSION FOR WFC MEMBER STATE COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES IN ROME ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1977. PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS TO BRING REPRESENTATIVES UP TO DATE ON WFC ACTIVITIES SINCE MANILA MEETING IN JUNE, BUT WITHOUT STEALING WFC PRESIDENT TANCO'S STORY WHEN HE SPEAKS IN ROME FAO CONFERENCE.

2. WFC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DR. JOHN HANNAH INTRODUCED MR. OMOTOSO, WHO DESCRIBED ECOSOC ACTION ON WFC REPORT CULMINATING IN ECOSOC RESOLUTION 2114 (LXIII) OF AUGUST 4. THIS RESOLUTION IS HIGHLY COMMENDATORY AND SUPPORTIVE OF WFC. WFC EXPECTS SIMILAR TREATMENT BY UNGA. TANCO WILL BE IN NEW YORK TO INTRODUCE ITEM IN COMMISSION II ON NOV. 3 OR 4.

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3. TANCO WILL ACTUALLY ARRIVE IN NEW YORK ON OCTOBER 31, AND AROUND NOVEMBER 5 PLANS TO VISIT WASHINGTON AND THEN POSSIBLY CANADA. TANCO WILL COME TO ROME ON NOVEMBER 11 AND STAY THROUGH NOVEMBER 18. HE HOPES TO SPEAK TO FAO CONFERENCE, SEE REFTEL (A). HE PLANS TO MEET WITH FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL SAOUMA AND WILL HOST DINNER FOR WFC MEMBERS ON NOVEMBER 16,

SEE REFTELL (A).

4. WALTERS OF WFC STAFF THEN TOUCHED ON WFC IMPLEMENTATION OF FIVE PROPOSALS OF MANILA COMMUNIQUE: (A) THERE ARE NOW 305,000 TONS PLEDGED TOWARDS THE 500,000-TON EMERGENCY RESERVE; (B) THERE ARE NOW 8.9-9 MILLION TONS PLEDGED TOWARDS THE 100 MILLION TON FOOD AID TARGET; (C) THE WFC IS ASSISTING IN THE INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT DISCUSSIONS. SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IS BEING MADE AND WFC HAS HOPES OF SETTLEMENT OF MOST OUTSTANDING ISSUES BY IWC MEETING OF NOVEMBER 28 - DECEMBER 2 IN LONDON AND AGREEMENT BY MARCH 1978; (D) THE WFC IS MEETING WITH ACC ON COORDINATING POLICIES ON NUTRITION; AND (E) THE WFC IS FOLLOWING UP ON COUNTRY PROGRAMS OF INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION. TANCO IS PRESSING ON ALL OF THESE AREAS IN HIS VISITS AND WILL DO SO AT THE UNGA AND FAO AS WELL AS BILATERALLY IN WASHINGTON AND LATER IN EUROPE DURING A VISIT FROM DECEMBER 12-22, INCLUDING A VISIT TO BRUSSELS AND THE EEC.

5. THERE WAS LITTLE DISCUSSION AFTERWARDS, BUT THE WFC WAS ASKED ABOUT THE EFFECT U.S. ACREAGE SET ASIDE PROPOSALS. WALTERS MADE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE AFTER WHICH BAKER ASKED FOR U.S. COMMENT, STRESSED CARE WITH WHICH DECISION MADE, ASSOCIATED PROPOSAL FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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6 MILLION T RESERVE, AND FACT THAT U.S. HAD ONLY ACTED AFTER IT WAS SURE SUPPLIES OF WHEAT WOULD BE MORE THAN ADEQUATE. HE ALSO STRESSED TITLE III PROGRAM.

6. NOT STATED IN DISCUSSION, BUT THAI REP SAID THAT TANCO HAS CONSULTED WITH ASIAN COUNTRIES ON A RICE COMMODITY AGREEMENT. IT NOW APPEARS ALL ASIAN COUNTRIES SUPPORT A RICE COMMODITY AGREEMENT AND UNCTAD WILL BE ASKED TO ADD RICE AS A CORE COMMODITY TO ITS INTEGRATED COMMODITY PROGRAM, SEE REFTEL (B).

7. WALTERS AFTERWARD TOLD BAKER THAT TANCO WOULD BE SEEKING APPOINTMENTS NOVEMBER 7-9 IN WASHINGTON WITH BERGLAND, HATHAWAY AND GILLIGAN. HOLMES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, FOODS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ROME17421
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770394-0576
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771021/aaaaarbr.tel
Line Count: 108
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0e842227-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ROME 16697, 77 ROME 11675
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 788910
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL
TAGS: EAGR, FAO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0e842227-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009